Recommendation of Working Group regarding empowerment of STs

873. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Working Group constituted on empowering the Scheduled Tribes has recommended for a comprehensive National Tribal Policy to safeguard the tribal interests, particularly that of primitive groups;

(b) if so, by when Government are going to bring a Bill before Parliament to address to issues raised by the Working Group;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Group has also recommended that the NGOs working in the tribal areas should compulsorily have a tribe as its chief; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government on this and the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Working Group, however, was constituted by the Planning Commission to whom the Group has submitted its report for appropriate action.

(c) and (d) The Working Group has recommended that among the NGOs operating in the Tribal Areas, most of the chief functionaries be tribals and not more than 50% of the members be non tribals.

Condition of tribal students' hostels

874. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether tribal students' hostels are generally without electricity, water and even furniture;

(b) whether Government's funds are diverted by certain States including Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the measures taken to ensure proper upliftment of the tribal students with funds earmarked by Government?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs releases grants-in-aid for construction of Boys' and Girls' hostels for STs to the extent of 50% of construction cost. The other facilities are provided by the concerned State Government.

(b)So far as schemes of Boys and Girls Hostels for STs are concerned, no such instance has come to the notice of the Ministry.

(c) In order to ensure proper utilization of the funds released by the Government for the upliftment of the tribal students, review meeting are held at various levels in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs with the representatives of the State Governments. Moreover, site inspection of the projects funded by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs are undertaken from time to time, and corrective measures are taken, if necessary.

Evaluation of Urban Employment Generation Programme

875. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the various schemes of Urban Employment Generation Programme, neither the genuine beneficiaries are identified nof the muster roll are maintained;

(b) whether it is also a fact that evaluation of performance through reputed institutions/organisations is not carried out on regular basis; and

(c) if so, the Government's reaction about the performance of the schemes as a whole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation has been implementing Swama Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), a Centrally Sponsored Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme, with effect from 01.12.1997 with a view to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed or under-employed poor. House-to-house survey for identification of genuine beneficiaries is to be carried out by the State Govemment/UTs as per the guidelines of .the scheme. Out of 3580 number of towns house-to-house survey has already been conducted in 3356 towns. It has been brought to the notice of the Government that some of the States are not maintaining proper muster rolls. The concerned States have already been requested to furnish report in this regard.

(b) The evaluation studies in respect of Swama Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) in four States have been carried out by Indian Institute of Public Administration (UPA) which is one of the reputed organisations. Further, the work relating to the conduct of evaluation studies on SJSRY in three other States by reputed Research Agencies is in progress. In addition to the Ministry's efforts for evaluation of the scheme, the State Governments of Karnataka and Punjab have also conducted independent studies on SJSRY.